

I have a several concerns about the proposed Broadcast Flag on both a professional and personal levels. This proposal seems to me to be designed to placate the giants of the entertainment industry, while ignoring the consumer. Furthermore, the "broadcast flag" is flawed technically, as it will not stop the theft of copyrighted works, and in fact, may make detection and prevention of such activity harder.

Anyone familiar with the battles over software copy protection in the late 1980's and early 1990's will recognize that once a particular piece of content has been "broken", or had it's copy protection removed, that content is forever completely open.

Given the technical structure of this proposal, it would seem to me as a programmer to be a relatively simple task to "hack" any content protected by such a simplistic device, and strip the "broadcast flag". Once stripped, the flag is completely useless, as no system would be able to tell it from legal, unmarked content.

You make say that of course the act of removing the flag would be illegal - of course it would. But so is copying and didistributing the file today! So what would this proposal have accomplished?

It will raise the price on new electronic equipment, interfere with the average consumers fair use rights and fool (at least for a little while) the capital markets into thinking the entertainment conglomerates have the piracy problem solved, thus boosting their stock price.

That's all.

We have to address the problem of ripped off content somehow - as a programmer I make my living by copyright. But this is not the correct way to approach the issue, and will only result in massive headaches for consumers and manufacturers alike as they attempt to comply.

Thank you.

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